GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1913
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2002
NON-SUPPLY OF SELF LOADING RIFLES
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed out in 2001 in their report that the Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur, did not supply self-loading rifles worth Rs. 12.71 crore to the Border Security Force despite advance payment made in September, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the inspection team found that 60 percent of the SLRs were of an old brand and reconditioned and not acceptable;

(c) whether despite the team`s adverse observations, the sanctioned amount was drawn in full and paid as advance to the Jabalpur COD in September, 1993; and

(d) if so, the person responsible for this mismanagement; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against those held responsible?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Self Loading Rifles which were to be issued to Border Security Force had been withdrawn from Army on induction of Rifles 5.56mm INSAS and were serviceable though in used condition. These rifles were rejected by the representatives of the Border Security Force on the plea that the weapons though serviceable, were in used condition. As no new serviceable rifles were available for issue, the Border Security Force were offered ammunition against the amount of advance given by the BSF. This was agreed to by the Border Security Force.

(c) Yes, Sir. The amount was drawn by Directorate General of Border Security Force and paid as advance to the Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur.

(d) & (e): In view of the replies given at (b) and (c) above, no one from Central Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur can be held responsible in this regard.